

ground colour than in normal specimens. Forewing shows purplish tinge in fresh specimens; median fascia usually present to a degree, but other markings (except terminal fascia) usually reduced or absent.

Type: Male Oughtdarra, Co. Clare, 4.viii.1974. B.K. West.

Paratype: Male Oughtdarra, Co. Clare, 4.viii.1974. B.K. West.

Reference

Kettlewell, B., 1973. *The Evolution of Melanism*. Oxford University Press.

NEW ABERRATIONS OF BRITISH LEPIDOPTERA

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Chloroclysta truncata Hufn. **ab. rufofasciata** ab. nov. (Plate A, Fig. 9)

Forewing: has a well-defined reddish-brown median fascia and basal area, separated one from the other by a slightly paler narrow band which itself has a dark striga running through its centre. The postmedian fascia is whitish ochreous, clearly defined on its inner margin, less so outwardly towards a reddish-brown terminal area, and posteriorly to a reddish-brown blotch on the dorsum close to the tornus. The apical area also reddish-brown, with some paler mottling. Two white dots are present on the lower half of the dorsum.

Type: Male, Kenmare, Co. Kerry, 6.vi.1977. B.K. West.

This form very closely resembles *Lampropteryx suffumata* D. & S.; the two white dots on the dorsum are a distinguishing feature. It is a very bright form, more in character with those frequently encountered in the Scottish Highlands, and quite unlike specimens usually found in Co. Clare.

Ligdia adustata D. & S. **ab. nebulata** ab. nov. (Plate A, Fig. 12)

Forewing: the normal black postmedian fascia is replaced but one of grey coloration, giving much of the forewing a cloudy appearance; the normal black basal area is retained.

Type: Dartford Heath, West Kent, 4.v.1952. B.K. West.

This would seem to be a rare form; it is not represented in the National Collection.

Ecliptopera silaceata D. & S. **ab. reticulata** ab. nov. (Plate A, Fig. 10)

Forewing: brown with all normally pale areas reduced in width to produce a network of pale ochreous lines.

Type: Male, Dartford, West Kent, 10.vii.1988. B.K. West.

Because of the reduction of pale coloration, the specimen has a somewhat melanistic appearance; presumably a rare form.

Plagodis pulveraria L. **ab. effusa** ab. nov. (Plate A, Fig. 11)

Forewing: the dark median fascia lacks a clearly defined outer border, thus merging imperceptibly with the paler ground colour leaving a narrow,

ill-defined marginal band. The dark central fascia consequently appears much wider than normal.

Type: Rinnamona, Co. Clare, 5.vi.1987. B.K. West.

The National Collection contains several specimens from England, none with complete data. Undoubtedly an uncommon aberration which might be encountered anywhere.

***Arctia caja* Hufn. ab. *rivularis* ab. nov.** (Plate A, Fig. 14)

Forewing: deviates from normal in that the costal and dorsal brown blotches of the submarginal transverse "band" (the boot and cottage loaf marks) coalesce.

Type: Male, Dartford, Kent, 9.viii.1984. B.K. West.

This is a rare aberration affecting only one element of the forewing basic pattern. A complete submarginal band on the forewing is more often observed in conjunction with other forms of coalescence. It is particularly interesting to note that there is another form involving only this rudimentary band, ab. *schizomacula* Gdn. Smith in which both the boot and cottage loaf marks are each divided into two sections, a specimen of which was obtained at my garden m.v. trap on 9.viii.1983.

Axylia putris* L. ab. *brunnea Goater (Plate A, Fig. 15)

By my error this aberration was included for photographing; as I believe it has not been illustrated before, it has been left in. It is known from three specimens taken in or near London – Mill Hill, Middlesex, 7.vii.1958 (B. Goater); Bushy, Hertfordshire, 1.vii.1978 (B. Goater); and Dartford, West Kent, 11.vi.1988 (B.K. West). The original description may be found in *Ent. Rec.* **81**: 27.

***Orthosia incerta* Hufn. ab. *ocularis* ab. nov.** (Plate A, Fig. 16)

Forewing: dark brown, markings obscure except pale outlines of reniform and obicular stigmata and submarginal line which are conspicuous.

Type: Male, Dartford, West Kent, 23.iv.1975. B.K. West.

Several forms have conspicuous subterminal line, thus it is invariably present in the shiny dark *melaleuca* Lenz., and *flavilinea* Lempke is a blanket term covering all specimens with an enlarged, contrasting subterminal line; a similar conspicuous outline of the stigmata appears to be rare. All of the Types except *A. putris* ab. *brunnea* are in the author's collection.

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